Overseer, would of course have to be appointed under the Director. The present policy of merging the land-revenue with the general revenue and allotting a nominal amount from the latter in the General Budget for irrigation works should be discontinued, and a fair percentage of the total land-revenue should be set apart in the Budget for the above purpose every year and expended in consultation with the Director of Agriculture.

In conclusion, the Member requested that the matters mentioned by him might receive the early and sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

6. The necessity for changing the policy of the Government in regard to the registry of Puthuvals.

Mr. Ebrahim Sait Joosa Sait (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) observed that the recent orders of Government in the matter of the registry of waste lands were causing very great hardship to the people of the State. The Member was not prepared to say that it was wrong policy to raise the rate of *tharavila* proportionately to the rise in the price of land caused by the growth of population. But lands were being freely registered to non-Travancoreans, and in doing so, the claims and rights of the subjects of the State were not receiving due consideration. A continuance of such a policy did not present a bright outlook for the future and that was causing much fear and anxiety in the minds of the people. At present, in the place of the fixed rate of *tharavila*, minimum rates were fixed, and the discretion to fix the *tharavila* in individual cases was given to the Dewan Peishkar and the Tahsildar. In the present condition of the work which was expected of a Tahsildar, the power was really exercised by the lower Revenue subordinates such as the Proverthicar and Proverthy Accountant, and, in their hands, it acted as a weapon of considerable mischief. It was enough to say that the ryot, in many instances, paid as *tharavila* much more than the price which the lands would fetch. He requested therefore that a fixed *tharavila* should be prescribed in the case of the subjects of the State and that the same should be recovered in six or seven yearly instalments. He also suggested that the power to dispose of *puthuval* cases should be vested in the Tahsildars as in British India. Lastly, the Member said that there were extensive areas suitable for paddy cultivation inside the Reserves, without any tree-growth thereon. He requested that such areas should be registered in the names of the ryots.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

7. Grievances of the agricultural ryots of the Peermade taluk and suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. R. Krishna Panicker (Member, Peermade taluk) dwelt at length on the difficulties of *cherikal* cultivation and said that, unlike other wet lands, any profit could be had from them only once in six years or so. Prior to the G. O. of the 10th Meenom 1082 on the settlement of *cherikals*, only *malavaram* or *vilameladi* tax was recovered by the Government from those lands. The recent orders of the Government suddenly enhancing the tax, *tharavila* &c., on the *puthuval* –*cherikal* lands in the taluk operated as a serious obstacle to the extension of cultivation by the natives of the State. The ryots were not only not able to go in for new lands, but they were also unable to retain the lands in their possession, paying the heavy assessment. Already large areas had been registered to foreigners, and with the high *tharavila* of Rs. 25 and assessment of 15 fanams per acre, the ryots of the State had necessarily to draw back in the keen competition for lands. In view to avoid a crisis in the future, the Member submitted the following suggestions for consideration:—

(1) The Government should not prohibit *cherikal* cultivation but should encourage it and afford facilities therefor.

(2) The *tharavila* should be so regulated as not to exceed three times the assessment in any case.

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(3) The present *tharavila* of Rs. 25 and assessment of 15 fanams per acre should be cancelled.

(4) The assessment for *cherikals* should not exceed 5 fanams an acre.

(5) All arable lands available should be registered to the subjects of the State, and no further reservation of forests should be made.

(6) Such lands within reserved forests as could be registered without detriment to forest interests should be assigned to the people.

(7) Land at the rate of 5 acres per head should be registered to the really landless poor, free of acreage value and arrears of assessment.

(8) 200 acres of land should be set apart as grazing grounds between the 24th and 30th milestones on the Kottayam–Kumili road.

(9) A veterinary hospital should be established at Kanjirappalli.

(10) Lower Grade Elementary Schools should be opened in the villages of Cheruvalli, Chenapadi, Edakunnam and Erumeli.

(11) As agriculture suffered for want of proper communications, the following village roads should be made cartable:—

(*a*) the road from the Ponkunnam market to the 5th mile of the Kanjirappalli–Kunnumbhagom road *via* Cheruvalli and Chirakadavu ;

(*b*) the road from the 4th mile of the Kunnumbhagom road to Erumeli *via* Chenapadi ;

(*c*) the road from the 24th mile of the Kottayam–Kumili road to the Meenachil road *via* Kanjirappalli, Thampalakad, Panamattom and Elikulam; and

(*d*) the road from the 26th mile of the Kottayam–Kumili road to Edakunnam.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

8. The desirability of limiting the grant of Sirkar unassessed waste lands on permanent tenure to foreign capitalists and of restricting the transfer of lands by the natives of the country to such capitalists.

Mr. C. Sankara Menon, B. A., B. L., (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) said that his submission was that, in the interests of the people of the State, it was desirable to restrict the assignment of waste lands at the disposal of the Government on permanent tenures to persons who were not *bona fide* subjects. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai had already represented certain aspects of the question and he had only to add a few more points in connection with it. He explained the limitations under which the people had to work and examined the growth of population from 1875 to 1911. In the first two decades, the increases were 3 and 5 per cent, while, during the last two, the figures rose to 15 and 16 per cent respectively. The density per square mile also rose from 462 in 1875 to 686 in 1911. Of the arable area available, only 25 per cent remained to be brought under the plough. The condition of the ryots was such that, in spite of the efforts of the Director of Agriculture, intensive cultivation had not made any progress, nor was it likely to do so in the future. The widening of the limits of cultivation was the only course open to them. In the neighbouring State of Cochin, where the density was even greater and the arable area less, the result was that the people were converting paddy lands into gardens and homesteads. The Travancore ryots were doing the same. They were reclaiming the backwaters, but even that they were precluded from doing successfully, owing to the heavy cost of such reclamations and also the prohibitive *tharavila* levied by the Government. Replying to the Dewan, the Member said that the cost of reclamation was, according to a recent judicial finding, Rs. 35 per cent. It might be slightly lower where the depth of the backwater was less. He feared that, in another three or four decades, there would not be lands even to squat on.

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